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 **GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY**

 **ORCHID COLUMN**

 **CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR**

 **“THE ORCHIDS OF HAWAII” CAROL SIEGEL, PRESENTER**

 **THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY**

 **THE ORCHID COLUMN**

 **SUNDAY 13 , 2023 1:30pm**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GET INTO ROOM UNTIL 1:30. THE MEETING WILL START OFFICIALLY AT 2 PM. THERE WILL BE NO PIANO PLAYER DUE TO TIME**

**CATHY LOFTFIELD “ORCHIDS OF THE NEW WORLD”**

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 **Cathy Loftfield will present a power point presentation on orchids of the New World. In her words:**

This is a wonderful journey through North, Central and South America, where we explore beautiful and unusual Orchids.  In this journey we discover that every orchid has a story.  We learn what its growing conditions are, what its environmental needs are, and where it grows, thrives, and survives.

Please remember that the room will not be available until 1:30.

I have ordered orchids from Hilo Orchid Farms for sale which has New World oncidium hybrids.

**WE ARE SADDENED TO RELATE THAT MARY KING, THE DEAR WIFE OF OUR MEMBER BARRY KING HAS PASSED.**

**SHE WAS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE AND THE MOST WONDERFUL PERSON. ALL WHO KNEW HER WILL MISS HER KINDNESS, INTELLIGENCE, AND JOYFUL LAUGH. SHE WILL TRULY BE MISSED.**

We wish a speedy recovery to our dear member Diana Smith after her recent surgery.

I

**In August, we will have a potluck with a**

 **PICNIC**

**theme. We will have picnic theme paper goods. We rely on you to bring the picnic!!**

**Cathy Loftfield will bring drinks, and I will bring paper goods and more. It will be as delicious as we make it.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 13 Cathy Loftfield “Orchids of the New World” 1:30**

**Sept 10, 2023 Carol Siegel “How Orchids Got Their Names”**

**October 8 Peter Lin “Dendrobium and Their Culture”**

**November 12 Bridget Uzar Carter and Holmes “Troubleshooting Your Orchids”**

**She will provide orchids to sell**

**December 10, 2023 Holiday party Art Chadwick “Cattleya” In person talk WITH ORCHIDS TO SELL**

**January 14 White Elephant Sale Orchid Limited Zoom Nursery Tour**

**Feb 11, 1024 Diana Smith “Mounted Orchids”**

**March 10, 2024 Bridget Uzar “Introduction to Tropical Ladyslippers”**

**April 14 Carol Siegel “How to Build An Orchid Collection”**

**July 14, 2024 Alan Koch**

**MORE BELOW KEEP GOING….**

**SEPT 10th FOOD (NOT THIS MONTH-NEXT MONTH**

**THIS MONTH IS A POTLUCK)**

**Delina Santos, Kate Schlatter and Vira Ross have kindly volunteered to bring food in Sept. We need at least two more. Food volunteers each usually bring three things- a main dish, side and dessert or something like that. Remember we have lots of members. If you bring drinks, you only have to bring one more thing. We have plenty of plates and utensils so Sept people don’t need to bring those. Please volunteer, and if you volunteer, please show up. It only works if everyone takes a turn each year.**

**After Mark Romansky’s terrific talk, members asked me where they could buy potting mix. Just type “orchid potting mix” into Google, and there are lots of nurseries that carry small amounts of mix. I like to buy from Fred Clarke at Sunset Valley Orchids** **www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com****. The bale of sphagnum moss which I love is $160. He has agreed to sell our members a half bale if you request it for $80.**

**CLARICE DEAN’S GREAT ARTICLE ON CATTLEYA**

**A few years ago, very good grower Clarice Dean, a member, wrote a wonderful article on growing *attleya*. Since Cathy is going to speak on New World orchids, and *Cattleya* are one of the best genera of New World orchids, I have reprinted Clarice’s article here. Thank you, smart lady.**

Growing *Cattleya* Alliance Orchids in Las Vegas by Clarice Dean

 *Cattleya* orchids may well be the most easily recognized and popular group of orchids in the orchid world. Many plants in this alliance are noted for long-lasting, beautiful, fragrant, BIG flowers – that is what I like about *Cattleyas*. These South America beauties that grow near the tree tops in moist tropical forests are said to be easy to grow! In fact, Judy White stated in her book, *Taylor’s Guide to Orchids* that “ *Cattleyas* are among the easiest and showiest of all orchids to grow.” If you do everything right, at the right time, this can be true. However, it’s taken me many, many years and many, many dead plants to get the hang of growing them. I’m still learning and still killing some, but not as many as I used to.

 The name “*Cattleya*” and Cattleya Alliance are the terms most often used for Cattleya-like genera that interbreed readily. Some of the more common genera included in the alliance are *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Brassavola* and *Epidendrum*. Hybrids common of these genera are *Brassocattleya (Bc.), Brassoepidendrum (Bepi.), Brassolaelia (Bl.), Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc.), Laeliocattleya* and many others. Plants of these genera normally require similar growing conditions and will grow well together in a mixed collection with other orchids that respond to intermediate to warm growing conditions. These conditions can easily be provided in Las Vegas with a little help from greenhouses and other modified growing areas with the use of humidifiers, swamp coolers, misting systems, fans and quality water.

 Generally speaking, *Cattleyas* like intermediate to warm temperatures. That means no cooler than 55°F in the winter and no warmer than 85°F in summer. The plants need bright light to bloom well. If you are growing inside, place plants in a southern, eastern or western windowsill or a greenhouse with 2500 – 3500 footcandles. Do not provide direct sun – the leaves will burn. Touch the leaves, if they feel hot, provide more shading and air movement. Humidity in the 80% to 85% range is greatly appreciated by the plants; however, very difficult to maintain in any Las Vegas growing area. Do the best you can – your plants will adapt.

 Watering, in my opinion, is the most important part of *Cattleya* culture and the most difficult to master for me. The biggest mistake that I have made over the years is underwatering! Yes, underwatering. If you want to learn how to water your *Cattleyas* correctly, learn from your plants and remember we live in an extremely arid climate and our plants know this. Even if you grow in a controlled environment, your plants will need more water than orchids grown in a greenhouse in southern California. *Cattleyas* like to be moist at the roots with excellent ventilation and some drying out between waterings. If your roots are well ventilated in a coarse mix you will have a hard time overwatering them. I know this seems to go against the “cardinal rule” of orchid watering, but the key is balance between the media and frequency of watering. Adjust your watering with the media you provide. For instance, in my greenhouse many of the *Cattleyas* are potted in clay pots with a very coarse rock-type mix. I water them everyday during the hottest summer months! If your *Cattleyas* are grown in pots provide a very open, fast draining medium that allows rapid drying and good aeration for the roots.

Grow good roots – you’ll have healthy plants that reward you with abundant beautiful blooms. A good rule of thumb for repotting *Cattleyas* is to NEVER repot until you see new root growth. The plants will then establish themselves easier in a shorter time.

It’s a fact that not all plants grow well in my conditions even when I feel that I’ve provide all the correct cultural needs. I’ve learned that some plants just grow better and are easier to grow than others. And then, some plants just commit suicide in my growing conditions. They arrive here from Southern California and beg to be sent home as they shrivel up and die! Nevertheless, below you will find a list of plants that have grown well for me and I think will grow well for you. Most of these plants are readily available from the vendor list provided.

**Some easy to grow *Cattleya’s* that I like:**

**Blc. Aqui-Finn ‘Nature’s Best’** – extra large white with fuchsia splash petals, very fragrant, easy to grow. Large plant.

**Lc. Gold Digger** – Many clones are available. Of the ones I have, I like ‘Fuchs Mandarin’ CCM/AOS the best for it’s clear yellow petals and brilliant red lip. ‘Orchid Jungle’ HCC/AOS and ‘Buttercup’ are also nice. Excellent for specimen culture, can easily double in size each year with good culture. Likes abundant water in the summer. Compact grower.

**Lc. Maikai ‘Mayumi’ HCC/AOS –** Blooms right on time at Thanksgiving every year. Good for specimen culture. Can double in size each year. My plant had over 100 flowers this year. Compact grower. Primary hybrid of *B. nodosa* and *C. bowringiana*.

**Bl. Petite Stars** – A *Brassavola nodosa* hybrid, this plants like lots of water, fertilizer and high light. Starts blooming in May and blooms all summer for me. Flowers start out pink and turn white. Darker pink lip. Easy! Specimen culture. Compact grower.

**C. Chocolate Drop ‘Kodoma’ AM/AOS**, Red waxy flowers that are sometimes fragrant. This clone blooms well, but what I like about this orchid is the roots. You cannot keep then in the pot! My plant has, what seems like, hundreds of roots about 3 to 4 feet long. Amazing! Tall plant.

**L. Minerva –** The flowers of this hybrid look at lot like *L. tenebrosa* – bronze with bright pink lip. Many 4” flowers per spike. The pseudobulbs readily branch with more than one new growth on each old bulb. Easy! Likes abundant water the summer. Very tall plant.

**Blc. Williette Wong ‘The Best’ AM/AOS –** Simply the easiest yellow to grow in my collection. Large fragrant yellow flowers with red lip. Excellent grower, large plant.

**Lc. Drumbeat ‘Heritage’ HCC/AOS** – This is an old and famous hybrid - remakes can still be purchased. Breathtakingly large pink flowers that present perfectly. Large plants.

**Blc. Pamela Hetherington ‘Coronation’ AM/AOS** – Another old cross that has extra large spectacularly large pink flowers that are long lasting for me. Remakes of this cross are becoming available.

**C. Dupreana ‘coerulea – Kodama’** - This is a primary hybrid blue form (C. warneri X C. warscewiczii) exhibiting wonderful hybrid vigor. Both parent species are easily grown. This is an amazing grower with wonderful large “blue” flowers that make an amazing display even on small plants. This orchid may be hard to find, but I’ve seem it lately from Hawaiian growers at the California shows. Large plants.

**Blc. Golden Tang** – A compact growing *B. nodosa* hybrid with multiple medium size flowers – the golden color intensifies as the blooms age. Easy to grow and bloom. High light. Plenty of water when growing.

**Lc. Hausermann’s Firewings ‘Pegasus’** – An amazing grower and bloomer! Lots of medium white with fuchsia-splashed petal flowers easily doubling in size each year. Good for specimen culture.

**Lc. Mary Elizabeth Bohn ‘Royal Flare’ AM/AOS** – This is a “must have” if you like blue flowers. Many medium size flowers per spike. Can bloom more than once a year. Good grower. Easy to bloom. Likes medium to high light.

**C. Hawaiian Variable** – Tall plants that are easy to grow. They bloom once a year with medium somewhat waxy flowers with variable color forms; I have two – one is pink with spots and the other is green with spots. Fragrant. Lots of flowers per spike.

**Lc. Stonehouse** – This orchid is easily found in Santa Barbara. Large easily grown plants with amazing white flowers with huge fuchsia lips. At least three large flowers per spike!

**Eplc. Charlie Brown** – Compact growing with many deep red flowers on tall spikes. Good for specimen culture. I grow mine in a wood basket so it will completely dry out between waterings. High light.

**C. Artic Star ‘Snow Queen’** – One of my most favorite whites. Many medium white fragrant flowers on tall pseudobulbs. Once a year blooms. Easy

**Blc. Memoria Vida Lee ‘Limelight’** – Amazing grower. Nodosa hybrid with many green large nodosa-shaped flowers with bright pink large lip. Excellent for specimen culture. My plant blooms all summer on every newly matured pseudobulb.

**Blc. Empress Worsley “Roman Holiday’ HCC/AOS** – Easy grower that can bloom anytime, but not usually in winter. Medium size purple flowers with unusual color. The flowers appear white on the back and diffused purple on the front.

**C. Bactia ‘Grape Wax’** – Tall primary hybrid bifoliate ( C. bowringiana X C. guttata) with amazing medium waxy purple multiple flowers on tall spikes. The older the plant the greater the flower count.

**Some easy to grow Cattleya alliance species**: In general these species like to be slightly cooler and drier during the winter months and well watered during the growing period.

**C. amethystoglossa** – The tallest Cattleya species, up to 40 inches, mature plants can produce as many as 30 flowers per spike. White magenta spotted flowers with deep purple lip. Lots of water while growing with warmer temperatures and more light. Spring blooming.

**C. aurantiaca** – Small brilliant orange flowers on bifoliate plants. Other color forms can be found – ranging from yellow to red. Vigorous grower. High light.

**C. bowringiana** – Tall stems on easy growing plants with characteristic swollen bulbs at the base make these easy to identify. Up to 20 rose-purple satiny flowers can be produced on mature plants that are tolerant of heat, sun, and poor humidity.

**C. forbesii** – Strong growing and free flowering heat tolerant bifoliate with pale yellow-green flowers that are not spectacular but the plants are rewarding to grow because of their ease of culture.

***C. gaskelliana*** – Large light purple flowers suffused with white and trumpet-like fringed rose lip. Spring blooming. Easy to grow and bloom.

***C. guatemalensis*** – Natural hybrid between *C. skinneri* and *C. aurantiaca*. Many colors available – white, yellow, orange, salmon, pink, rose, purple and red. Grown similar to both parents.

***C. guttata*** – These tall bifoliate plants can be 40 inches tall when well grown with up to 10 waxy flowers per spike that are yellow-green with deep purple spots. This is one of my favorite *Cattleya* species. They have long unbranching roots. The plants just look tall and majestic to me. Water heavily when growing. Otherwise grow on the dry side.

***C. harrisoniana*** – Floriferous! Bloom in late summer with rose-lilac flowers with heavy substance. The plants can be 20 inches tall. I water heavily when the plants are growing and producing new roots.

***C. jenmanni*** – Labiata type flower, unifoliate plants with fragrant rose-purple flowers with a darker central patch of coloring on the lip with orange and yellow veining in the throat. Winter blooming with up to three flowers and wonderful. Easy to grow for me.

***C. labiata*** – Unifoliate free growing with typical double bud sheath that produces two to five rose-colored flowers with wavy petals. The throat is yellow with a white “eye” on either side. Very beautiful. I grow mine mounted and it gets watered twice daily in summer with medium to high light. Grow this plant drier in the winter and provide short days in the autumn to stimulate blooming. If you are growing in a greenhouse without use of artificial lighting, the natural shortening of the days will stimulate blooming; however, be careful in the home, even added light from a desk lamp can throw off the blooming cycle. Provide complete darkness.

***C. maxima*** – Labiata type flower on unifoliate plants that are easy growing and easy to bloom. Flowers can appear anytime but usually in early spring and sometimes in fall too. The pale rose flowers have an amazing deep crimson network of veins and a yellow band on the throat with a pale ruffle around the border. Very easy to grow. Water heavily when growing and producing roots.

***C. percivaliana*** – Christmas blooming unifoliate. Easy. Medium size rose-lilac flowers with maroon shaped lip. The front of the lip is crimson and becomes intense yellow in the throat. Likes high light and lots of water when growing.

***C. schroderae*** – Almost always blooms in April with many light pink blooms on vigorous growing unifoliate plants. Fragrant.

***C. warneri*** – Large 6 to 8 inch rose-shaded flowers with a darker fringed lip and a winged shape. Easy to grow and bloom

***C. warscewiczii*** – Large beautiful flowers up to 9 inches across. Rose-mauve petals and very large rich purple lip with bright yellow “eyes” which is a characteristic of this species. Easy to grow and bloom; however, this species needs a dry winter resting period with much decreased watering. High light. Can grow cooler than other species.

 I listed the above species because I’ve had success growing them. There is much to know and learn about *Cattleya* species. If you have an interest in growing these plants, Carl Withner’s book is a good starting point to begin your study. Study each plant’s individual habitat and try to duplicate its conditions in your growing area and you will be successful.

Happy growing and blooming. Good luck.

Clarice Dean

**Some suppliers of Cattleya orchids:**

Hausermann’s

2N134 Addison Rd.

Villa Park IL 60181

(630) 543-6855

www.orchidsbyhausermann.com

Norman’s Orchids

11039 Monte Vista Ave.

Montclair CA 91763

(888) 4orchid

www.orchids.com

Oak Hill Gardens

37W550 Binnie Rd.

P.O. Box 25

Dundee IL 60118

(847) 428-8500

www.oakhillgardens.com

R.F. Orchids

28100 SW 182 Ave.

Homestead FL 33030

(877) 482-6327

www.rforchids.com

**Some books I like:**

*Taylor’s Guide to Orchids* by Judy White

*100 Orchids for the American Gardener* by Elvin McDonald

*The Cattleyas and Their Relatives Volume I: The Cattleyas* by Carl L Withner